By John P. Rehberger on 8/8/2006

Errors and Issues in the Final FY 2008 XML Schema
(Version OMB300v3.0.2.xsd relative to the final Exh. 300 form)

Below are various errors that we found when examining the XML schema file for the Exh. 300:

- **Logic error:** The PMAInitiative field is required even though the answer to supportPMAInitiatives could be a "No".
- **Ambiguous guidance:** UPIs are required to be in old 23 digit format and not the revised 17 digit format.
- **Error in the directions:** The fields ESPCFunding, sustainableDesignPractices, and sustainableDesignPracticesMore are mandatory even though the directions say they are "applicable to non-IT assets only"
- **Logic error:** Multiple fields in the ITProjectQuestions group are mandatory even if the answer to question 15 is "No" (and thus the ITProjectQuestions section does not apply).
- **Logic error:** performanceFiscalYear in Performance Information Table One (on p. 17) is mandatory even for projects that are not completing Table One at all.
- **Potential Omission:** Don't you want the nameOfSystem element (for planned, operational, and privacy systems) to be a required in Section E (on pages 19 and 20)?
- **Logic error:** The currently-required Risk Adjusted Lifecycle Costs and Risk Adjusted Lifecycle Benefits estimates (elements riskAdjustedLifecycleCostsEstimates and riskAdjustedLifecycleBenefitsEstimates) may not be available if the agency has not yet conducted an alternatives analysis (see question 1 on page 23 and question 4 on page 28).
- **Ambiguous guidance:** It is not clear if the Risk Adjusted Lifecycle Costs and Risk Adjusted Lifecycle Benefits estimates have to be completed for the "Baseline" alternative.
- **Potential Omission:** Don't you want the EVM "as-of" date (element EVMAsOfDate) to be a required (on pages 24 and 30)? If empty, is the submission date assumed to be the same as the EVM "as-of" date?
- **Potential Omission:** Shouldn't OMB's baseline approval date (element ombApprovedBaseline) in question 8 on pages 24 and 30 be in a date format?
- **Error in the directions:** In the milestone tables, the directions say that "In the event that a milestone is not found in both the initial and current baseline, leave the associated cells blank." However, some of the associated cells cannot be left blank because they are mandatory fields.
- **Potential Omission:** Conversely, in the milestone tables don't you want the Description of Milestone (element milestoneDescrip) to be a required (on pages 25, 26, and 30)? Isn't the Milestone the key data element upon which all of the other data in the table depends?
- **Potential Omission:** Shouldn't the Joint Approval Date (element jointApprovalDate) to (on page 27) be a required? Doesn't the fact that they are filling out this table indicate that they had a Joint Approval Date?
- **Logic error and error in the directions:** Three of the data elements in Table 8 Federal Quantitative Benefits (on p. 28) are required (budgetedCostSavings, costAvoidance, and justificationForSavings). Also, the directions say to "Use the results of your alternatives analysis to complete the following table". However, if per question 4 they have not completed the alternatives analysis, no data will be available for use in this table.

- **Logic error or error in the directions:** On page 29, the directions say that "Questions #2 - 7 are NOT applicable for capital assets with ONLY O&M". However, even eGov 300s that are "ONLY O&M" will have to answer the twelve required elements in this section because they are required by the schema.
- **Consistency error:** In the associated data dictionary, the answer to the FEA SRM Component in Table 3 on page 21 is an enumerated value (i.e., a drop-down list). However, in the XML schema, it is a free-text form.